



EXAMPLES OF COST CUTTING

State General Fund Elimination - In the fiscal year 2011, DEQ received no general funds and will not be requesting any in the upcoming budget for FY12.

Closure of the DEQ Laboratory - DEQ saved \$1.5 million in rental charges on the laboratory building.

Reduction of Office Space – Earlier this year, we rearranged work space so the department could vacate a floor at their headquarters building in Baton Rouge. This move saved DEQ more than \$500,000 in reoccurring savings beginning in FY12. With this reorganization, it became evident that the department could give up additional work space. We are in the process of vacating the second floor and a portion of the first floor for an additional budget savings of more than \$700,000 in reoccurring savings.

Re-Organization - DEQ recently underwent a restructuring move that enabled the department to save money and become more efficient with its resources. By combining like tasks and moving divisions into offices where job duties can be more efficient, DEQ was able to cut three administrator positions with salaries and benefits of more than \$100,000 each. With this streamlined supervisor-to-employee ratio, DEQ will have a stronger chain-of-command, while creating a balanced work environment for employees, managers and supervisors.

Closure of the DEQ Library – DEQ closed its library and realized a savings of \$121,000.

- In FY 2009, the department merged the Technology & Remediation Divisions, eliminating an administrator position, resulting in \$116,680 in total savings. In addition, merged the Contracts & Grants Division with the Financial Services Division, eliminating a manager position, with total savings in the amount of \$77,850.
- In FY 2010, DEQ incorporated the Office of Environmental Assessment, which included air and water quality assessment, underground storage tanks and remediation into other offices throughout the agency. This move is estimated to save more than \$200,000 with the elimination of two positions (a gubernatorial appointed position and an administrative assistant position) as well as the other costs associated with the positions.

Retirement Incentive - As a layoff avoidance option, the Director of Civil Service approved the department's request to offer a retirement incentive to employees eligible for retirement. 39 employees decided to take the incentive resulting in an estimated savings of \$2.5 million. Through this incentive and attrition, DEQ has gone from high of 1,021 employees in 2005 to the current 805 employees.

EXAMPLES OF EFFICIENCY

Counting both Underground Storage Tank Division and Remediation Services Divisions, 823 contaminated sites have been closed through evaluation and/or remediation since January 2008. These properties are now available for active commerce.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced in September that air monitoring data shows the Baton Rouge area has attained the 1997 8-hour standard for the pollutant ozone. EPA made a similar determination that the area is meeting the prior and now revoked standard that was based on 1-hour ozone



readings in February of this year. This is an excellent example of how air quality is improving in Baton Rouge and throughout the state, as the rest of the state is currently in compliance with both the one-hour and 1997 8-hour standard.

Louisiana was the first state to receive a discharge monitoring report, also known as DMR, submitted through NetDMR. A discharge monitoring report is a self-reporting document that is generated by permittees that have a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The DMR contains information pertaining to water discharges into waters of the state. NetDMR allows for facilities to submit their information electronically which saves them time and mail costs, while freeing up time for DEQ employees. DEQ receives about 42,000 DMRs annually. Using the NetDMR system has saved industry and DEQ personnel time and will be more efficient.

DEQ has instituted online permit applications to allow automatic validation of data prior to submission which reduces the number of invalid forms and time spent by personnel reviewing and responding to issues associated with paper applications. In addition to saving time by eliminating manual entry of data by personnel, online submittal of permit applications save resources and reducing storage needs by electronically going into the public record which provides a centralized location to review both active and submitted applications by the applicant and provides a transparent audit trail.

DEQ has implemented the ability for stakeholder to pay invoices online. Online payments are beneficial on the revenue side by decreasing the turnaround time for receipt of fees by the department and provide a convenient manner of payment by department stakeholders. In addition to reducing personnel time spent on processing mailed checks and manual data entry, online payments, when used in conjunction with online forms, can calculate fees based on the entered data as opposed to having the applicant perform their own calculations, which reduces the amount of refunds or supplemental bills generated by the department.

DEQ has developed regulatory (oil and gas well testing, release of natural gas from pipelines, emergency engines and portable air curtain incinerators) and general permits (minor source surface coating and minor source oil & gas) in an effort to streamline permitting. The limits set forth in the permits were determined to be protective of human health and the environment. Implementing these permits cuts down on the time necessary to draft a permit and has enabled LDEQ to meet regulatory timeframes with reduced staff, i.e. doing more with less. We are developing two regulatory permits this fiscal year, one for Concrete Crushing Facilities and the other for flaring of refined petroleum products.

Expedited permitting program - LDEQ is reimbursed by industry for overtime for quick turn-around permit issuance. Since 2008, 1,670 permits have been approved through the Expedited Permit Program. This program is beneficial to industry because applications can get processed quickly. It's a win for the state because there is no extra cost for the employee's overtime.

Expansion of Loan and Grant Programs managed by Small Business and Community Assistance Division. Since January 2008, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program has invested more than \$270 million in 93 communities within 54 parishes for wastewater/sewer infrastructure improvements across Louisiana. This accomplishment exceeds the results achieved since the inception of the CWSRF program over 20 years ago. The low-interest loans make it affordable for municipalities to upgrade their wastewater treatment plants, which in turn help the waters of the state.